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AP-4

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17 OCT 1969

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25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: [] Chairman
Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation
THROUGH : Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT : Photographic Coverage of the Sierra Snow
Fields
REFERENCE : []

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1. We will be happy to provide the additional coverage of the Sierra Snow Fields as requested in referenced memorandum.

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2. [] in [] R&D office, will be the focal point for Mr. Baker. He will work directly with [] of our operations staff who will schedule and conduct the operations necessary for the requested coverage.

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3. We understand the coverage requested involves the same flight lines previously provided us by Mr. Baker and covered during the Spring of 1969. This repeat coverage will be run in October 1969 and then in March, April, May, and June 1970 for a total of five good imagery producing flights.

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[]
DONALD H. ROSS
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

On file DOC release instructions apply.

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Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP72R00410R000100080005-5

AR-4

10 October 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Donald H. Ross
Director, Office of Special Activities

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Science and
Technology

SUBJECT : Photographic Coverage of the Sierra
Snow Fields

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1. [] The enclosed memorandum is largely self-explanatory.
[] with John Parangosky's concurrence, worked with
[] consultant to this Committee, and [] now
Chairman of the Imagery Collection Requirements Subcommittee of
COMIREX, in arranging for repetitive coverage with the tracking
camera of the U-2 of three major watersheds in the Sierra Nevadas
during the late winter and spring of 1969. The watersheds were
delineated on a map provided by Donald Baker, hydrologist in the
National Environmental Satellite Center of ESSA, Department of
Commerce. Twelve training missions by Agency U-2 aircraft were
flown over these watersheds in response to ESSA's previous request.
The processed film from the tracking camera was provided, without
cost, directly to Dick Tarble, Chief Hydrologist of the Sacramento
River Forecast Center, who analyzed the results of each mission
immediately after receipt. It proved to be a very practical tool in
forecasting potential water supply. He was enthusiastic in his reports
to Washington regarding the usefulness of the material.

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2. [] has already been in touch with []
about this current request. ESSA is asking only for the film from the
tracking camera. If desirable, Don Baker (Code 157, Extension 7236;
T-KH cleared) would be most happy to come to [] office
to discuss ESSA's requirement in detail.

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3. In view of the very practical application of such material by the Sacramento River Forecast Center and the attempt on the part of ESSA and Don Steininger to reduce the coverage requirement to a minimum number of five missions, assuming the quality of imagery from the tracking camera is adequate, I strongly urge that your organization make every effort to respond favorably to the enclosed request.

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Chairman
Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

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Enclosure: EOB-

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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October 6, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

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 Chairman, COMIREX, CIA

SUBJECT: Photographic Coverage of the Sierra Snow Fields


As you will recall, a request was made by ESSA through  for photographic coverage of the Sierra snow fields during the spring of 1969. This coverage has been extremely useful and furnished information which could not be obtained in any other manner. For example, the photography showed much less snow over the Kern River Basin than predicted earlier; therefore, it was possible to make the decision not to release water from the reservoirs since the peak flow period had passed.

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In view of the high value of the 1969 Agency aircraft-borne photography in managing the Sierra watershed, it is requested that five training flights be used for this purpose again. Assuming that the aircraft crew training schedule can accommodate this request, the following schedule will meet ESSA's requirements:

1. One "clear day" run during October before the first snow falls so that carry-over snow from last season can be determined.
2. Routine flights on or near the first of each month (27th to 4th) beginning March 1st through June 1st

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Donald H. Steininger, Chairman
ARGO Steering Committee

GROUP I

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification.


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